

Autumn,
2014

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SSWA is online:
www.sswa.ca

Email:
sswa@sswa.ca



Thank You

Thank you to all the residents of the South Shore Watershed who granted us permission to cross their land for river/ stream assessment and cleaning.

Our students look for stream blockages, stream bank problems, upland issues (erosion, run-off), silt, garbage or algae, hanging culverts (that fish can't get up to) as well as any unusual plant or tree sightings. Once an assessment has been made they will cut back problem foliage, plant trees and shrubs where needed, remove garbage and invasive species (like knotweed and wild cucumber) and any other work that will improve water flow and therefore fish habitat.

The watershed groups have also been asked by the PEI Watershed Alliance to monitor the springs. Volunteers have been out tramping through undergrowth trying to find the springs at the head of each of the rivers in the watershed. We have also been knocking on doors to seek permission to do all of the above. If you live beside or have property on a stream or river in the South Shore watersheds and would like to but have not received a visit, please contact your area representative.

- the Board of Directors of South Shore Watershed Association



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News from your watershed group

Sherren's Pond Info. Meeting

Wed., Nov.12, 7 pm

Crapaud Comm Hall

Nest Box Build Workshop &

Free Water Testing Clinic, both

Sat., Nov 15, 1 pm

Crapaud Comm Hall

DREAM AGM

Sat. Nov.15/14, 4 pm

Crapaud Comm Hall

Tryon River Watershed Coop & AC-CT

Public Meeting

Wed., Nov.19, 7 pm

South Shore United Church

Photo Contest Under Way for 2015

We here in the South Shore have the very great wealth of not only abundant natural beauty all around us, but also a bounty of talented photographers who kindly share their perspectives with the rest of us. This happened again this year, via the photo contest, with many dozens of awesome entries sent in. It was challenging to select only 3 from each region and then determine the grand prize selection.



Tryon River by Donna Butler, '14 Photo Contest Grand Prize Selection

Here it is. This image will grace the header of www.sswa.ca for a year. All winning images are displayed on the website. Other images are about to be shared in print.

Please shoot scenes and subjects now and throughout the year. Remember to send images to SSWA in March for prizes, and to celebrate what we enjoy here.

Natural Waters Engineering

This season, more than any other, it can be said that the watersheds of SSWA have been most heavily involved in works of smoothing passage of, protecting from and even stemming water flow. In three of our rivers, cooperative labor and even heavy equipment prevented banks from severe undercutting due to, in part, man-made debris collection and structural collapse. A pond that lost containment last winter was not only repaired but enhanced in all of its roles, notably as fish habitat, by its deepening. The biggest project is just getting under way and will continue next year (more on Nov. 12). Nature's wondrous engineer, the beaver is at work in several of our rivers and streams. Beaver damming is creating interesting challenges in some restoration and habitat projects, and is provoking discussion. This is good. Some groups have beaver management plans. Others do not yet. This winter will almost certainly see progress leading to effective community decisions.

2013-2014 SSWA Board of Directors:

Martha Howatt,
Augustine Cove

Dina Blot, Westmoreland

Daphne Davey, Westmoreland

Barb Clement, Tryon

Duane MacDonald, Tryon

Harry Smith, DeSable

Emily Gorman, DeSable

Westmoreland River Watershed Group (WRWG)

The Westmoreland River Watershed Group says a sad farewell to Peter Bower and Nancy Stunden, founding members, who are moving to Manitoba. They put their heart and soul into our group and we will miss them. We recently welcomed Jenn Slemmer, of Victoria, to the Board. WRWG carried out two restoration projects this fall. First, it did an urgent clean-up of a reach of the west branch in downtown Crapaud where several fallen trees and trash had created a blockage, guiding the river to undermine a bank near a residence. Thanks to the cooperation of Crapaud Council who loaned two employees to join the six watershed volunteers in this clean-up. Second, four watershed volunteers tackled the clean-up of an old dump, probably going back to the '60s, that covered the steep bank at a point along the Englewood Trail, in what may be a dangerous spot . We collected bags of glass bottles, many broken, some with drugs still in them -- and syringes with needles still attached -- as well as rusty tin, old fence wire, even an old axle. While more needs to be done, the worst has been removed. Thanks to the landowners who gave permission for us to cross their land to work on this project. A public meeting on Nov. 12 will identify more work.

Augustine Cove- Cape Traverse Group (AC-CT)

We are looking for people interested in having Barn Swallow ledges for their barns or large sheds. Please email SSWA at sswa@sswa.ca if you are interested. We wish to express thanks to both Home Depot and Kent Building Supplies for providing nest box materials for the upcoming Workshop. For anyone considering placing nest boxes, the following site provides excellent advice on box location and nest box and nest ledge plans specific for a wide number of species: www.50birds.com. Several nest boxes have been placed around Augustine Cove to encourage Tree Swallows. Trees and shrubs were planted on provincial land along Richard Point Road with the hopes of encouraging bird life. A Yellow Warbler was spotted in the shrubs this summer. AC/CT and Tryon are co-hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00pm at South Shore United Church, Fellowship Room.

Did you know? Swallows (both tree and barn types) are insect eaters, so don't expect them at your feeder. But if you want fewer flies and other pests, then encourage them by setting up nest boxes or nest ledges. Any swallow has to eat many hundreds of bugs each day. Their numbers are plunging, partly because it is getting harder for them to find suitable nesting locations to reproduce. Tree swallows are cavity nesters, so they will accept nest boxes. Nest ledges help barn swallows. Swallows are a treat to watch, darting for dinner in mid-air. There is basis to the saying, "When swallows fly high, the weather will be dry", for they are merely following their flying food.

DeSable River Enhancement & Activity Management (DREAM)

DeSable River had another productive season. *Eric's Day in May* enjoyed a good community turnout and everyone, even some with painted faces, worked together to make Linden Hill Pond Park look the most tended and valued ever. For an 8th year, CAMP estuary monitoring was done by staff and volunteers. Long-term data collected, added to other CAMP sites in the Maritimes, and combined with land use data, now informs Nor St-EMP. Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Program is one of six Canadian regional programs that provide decision-makers with essential information on water. Stream cleaning was carried out by staff and volunteers in lower DeSable River and upper Bells Creek. There was heavy duty work in the removal of two fallen bridges that were affecting flow in DeSable River. With critical support from our volunteers, Kellie, Myles, SSWA and Island Coastal, a deeper, better dam was built to replace the blown out berm at L. H. Pond, significantly changing both the look of the pond and greatly improving it as aquatic habitat. **DREAM rounds out its season with its AGM along with the Nitrate Testing Clinic** it has long sought to provide, **both on Nov. 15**. Our thanks to Myles Lord, Kellie Lockhart and Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Assoc. for making this clinic possible. **Bring your home sample for free testing.**

Tryon River Watershed Cooperative (TRWC)

Tryon volunteers got an early start, cleaning and checking bird boxes for use, and running trials. These ranged from strategies for keeping starlings from invading kestrel boxes to how to best clean congested springs using two water pumps. Volunteers located and monitored and rechecked most of the many springs in the watershed. Staff helped with planting and re-establishing the paths and public areas at Lords Pond, helping also at Lupin Trail. New benches were made and a canoe launch was set up. Also at Lord's, the sediment retention area was repurposed to frog pond/nursery. Invasive species control efforts are mixed, with considerable success in the case of knotweed and with some setbacks, with wild cucumber seeding extensively in the floodplain. Invasive species theme was displayed at the Canada Day Booth. Considerable work was involved to complete cleaning the West Branch, due to many blow downs. The details of the last season, along with discussion about future plans will happen soon. Tryon River and AC-CT are jointly hosting a public meeting at South Shore United Church on Wed., Nov. 19, at 7:00 pm

Membership and /or Donation Form South Shore Watershed Assoc. (SSWA) PO Box 123 Crapaud PE C0A1J0 SSWA is a registered charity and can issue charitable tax receipts	Name _____ Civic Address _____ Mailing Address _____ Email _____ Phone _____ Annual Membership Fee \$10.00 Donation \$ Total \$	Please make your cheque payable to SSWA
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Thank You ! Would you like your local watershed group to contact you ? y___ n___